REMARKS

The non-final Office Action dated January 6, 2005 ("Office Action") rejected all of the pending claims of the instant application. In particular, Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsai, U.S. Patent No. 6,283,789 B1. This Amendment sets forth arguments as to why the Applicants believe that the Office's position with respect to the pending claims is incorrect and should be withdrawn, that is, the pending claims as amended by way of this Amendment.

In addition to the claim rejection, the specification stands objected to. In response to the specification objection, corrections have been made to the disclosure of the instant application. In particular, the final paragraph of page 1 of the disclosure has been amended hereby, and the last complete paragraph of page 7 of the disclosure has also been amended. Applicants respectfully submit that the amendments to the specification obviate the Office's specification objection.

In order to assist the Office in further understanding the exemplary embodiments of the present invention, the Applicants provide below a summary of the invention, which relates to the various exemplary embodiments of the present invention. It is to be understood that the following summary of the various exemplary embodiments is not provided to define the scope or interpretation of any of the claims of this application. Instead, the summary is provided to assist the Office to better appreciate claim distinctions discussed hereafter.

Generally, the exemplary embodiments of the present invention relate to an electronic device with plural interface ports. An exemplary device of this type is illustrated in FIGURE 1 of the application as a CD drive 10. The CD drive 10 illustrated in FIGURE 1 is shown as being capable of connecting to a hub 20 by way of an interface port 12 and an assist power supply port 14. The interface port 12 not only receives power from the hub 20, but also receives data

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from the hub 20 that enables the CD drive 10 to operate with a host that is connected to the hub 20. In FIGURE 1, the host 20 is shown as being connected to the hub 20 by way of a USB cable 24.

FIGURE 2 of the application illustrates one exemplary embodiment of a CD drive 10. The CD drive 10 is illustrated as including a main device controller 10a and a sub device controller 10b. The sub device controller 10b is connected to the main device controller 10a. The main device controller 10a is connected to an IDE device 10e to thereby provide control of the IDE device 10e. In addition, FIGURE 2 illustrates that the CD drive 10 also includes a power supply circuit 10c that is capable of being connected to a host computer 26 by way of the interface port 12 and the power assist supply port 14.

Operationally, the main device controller 10a, along with other operational characteristics, is capable of determining whether or not the assist power supply port 14 has been connected to the host computer 26. If this is the case, the main device controller 10a instructs the sub device controller 10b to transmit configuration data to the host computer 26 that requests that the host computer 26 recognize the CD drive 10 as a dummy device that requires high power functionality. In response to this configuration data, the host computer 26 enables high power functionality over the assist power supply port 14.

In another exemplary embodiment of the present invention, the control device controller 10a and the sub device controller 10b permit the power supply circuit 10c to supply power to the IDE device 10e only when the interface port 12 along with the assist power supply port 14 are receiving power from the host computer 26.

Claim Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-28 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tsai. As is evident from review of this Amendment, Claims 1, 7 and 18 have been canceled. Claims 2-6

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have been amended, and Claims 29 and 30 have been added. The independent claims of this application are now Claims 2 and 24. Applicants respectfully submit that the relied upon patent document fails to teach or suggest the recitation of independent Claims 2 and 24. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that the relied upon patent is similarly deficient with respect to the rejected dependent claims. Our reasoning for the foregoing assertions is provided below.

Independent Claim 2

Independent Claim 2 sets forth a combination of limitations, including "power supply control means connected between each respective power supply line of said at least two ports of the interface and a power supply line of said body portion, and wherein said control means performs on-control of said power supply control means only when the supply of predetermined electric power through each of said at least two ports of the interface is permitted as a result of communication between said control means and the external equipment." For the following reasons, the Tsai patent relied upon by the Examiner fails to teach or suggest at least this indicated limitation of independent Claim 2.

Tsai teaches a data and power transmitting cable system 300. As is illustrated in figure 1 of the patent, the cable system 300 includes a first cable 15 and a second cable 16. The first cable 15 has a B connector 20 and an A connector 10. Similarly, the second cable 16 includes a B connecter 21 and an A connecter 11. The first cable 15 is designed to operate as a conventional USB data/power conduit, and the second cable 16 is designed to solely operate as a supplementary power transmission conduit (see Col. 3, lines 64-66).

Figures 2-5 of the Tsai patent illustrate the various pins that are associated with the A connectors 10 and 11 and B connectors 20 and 21. Figure 2 shows that the A connector 10 includes pins 1 and 4 that are used to conduct power, and pins 2 and 3 which are used to conduct data. On the other hand, although Figure 3 shows the existence of four pins on the A connector

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11, it appears that only the pins 1 and 4 that conduct power are identified. Correspondingly, Figure 4 illustrates the B connector 20 is capable of carrying both power and data, where Figure 5 illustrates that the B connector 21 is designed solely to conduct power. Therefore, in accordance with Figures 1-5, it is clear that the cable system 300 is capable of supplying additional power by way of the second cable 16 that is used for supplementary power transmission.

The foregoing discussion of Tsai shows that there is neither a teaching nor a suggestion that approaches that which is taught by indicated referenced portion of independent Claim 2. In particular, Tsai fails to teach or suggest "control means [that] performs on-control of said power supply control means only when the supply of a predetermined electronic power through each of said at least two ports of the interface is permitted as a result of communication between said control means and the external equipment." Put simply, the discussed portion of the Tsai patent simply relates to a cable system, where the recitation of independent Claim 2 relates to a specific element of an "electronic device" that is designed to receive at least one cable, such as a USB cable. The element of the "electronic device" allows operation of the "device" only when power is received at the "two ports." Tsai makes no reference or suggestion of such an electronic device having similar operational characteristics as those set forth in Claim 2.

Independent Claim 24

Independent Claim 24 sets forth a combination of limitations including a "USB device comprising: a first device controller adapted to be connected to a host machine; a second device controller connected to said first device controller and being adapted to be connected to the host machine, and a control device connected to said first device controller." (Emphasis added.) For the following reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that Tsai fails to teach or suggest at least the indicated limitations of independent Claim 24.

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Applicants note that at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention includes a main device controller 10a that may be connected to a host computer 26. In addition, a sub device controller 10b is also disclosed that is operatively connected to the main device controller 10a. The sub device controller 10b is capable of being connected to the host computer 26. The connection of the main device controller 10a is accomplished by way of a USB cable 16 and the connection of the sub device controller 10b is accomplished using a USB cable 18. An IDE device 10e is controlled by way of the main device controller 10a via an IDE interface 10c.

In accordance with the recitation identified from independent Claim 24 and the clarification of at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention, Applicants respectfully submit that the cable system 300 of the Tsai patent document has nothing to do with the "USB device" set forth in independent Claim 24 of this application. Applicants' reasoning follows.

As is further disclosed by the Tsai patent, a main device port system 200 (illustrated in figure 7) and a peripheral device port system 100 (illustrated in figure 6) are contemplated for use with the cable system 300. The main device port system 200 is a computer USB port or IEEE1394 port. The peripheral device port system 100 is used in a peripheral device, such as a storage device, a scanner or printer (see col. 3, lines 39-46.) Therefore, the peripheral device port system 100 is likely similar to the CD device 10 disclosed in this application.

Figure 6 of the Tsai patent illustrates that the system peripheral device port system 100 includes a first port 110 and a second port 120. The first port 110 is designed to receive both power and data from a port 210 of the main device port system 200. Power is received on pins 111 and 114 of the first port 110, where data is received on pins 112 and 113 of the port 110. The second port 120 of the peripheral device of port system 100 is designed solely to

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receive power from the main device port system 200. The power is received on pins 121 and 124 of the second port 120.

Further elaboration of the operative elements of the main device port system 200 and the peripheral device port system 100 is not included in the disclosure of the Tsai patent. Actually, the figures of the Tsai patent documents merely show empty boxes as representations of the port systems 100 and 200. Further illustration and discussion of the systems 100 and 200 is not provided in the patent.

Therefore, Tsai fails to teach or suggest at least "control means [that] performs on-control of said power supply control means only when the supply of predetermined electric power through each of said at least two ports of the interface is permitted as a result of communication between said control means and the external equipment." The Office is respectfully requested or referred to amended independent Claim 2 for this recitation. Additionally, Tsai fails to teach or suggest at least "a first device controller adapted to be connected to a host machine; a second device controller connected to said first device controller and being adapted to be connected to the host machine; and a controlled device connected to said first device controller." The Office is respectfully requested to refer to the recitation of independent Claim 24.

With regard to the rejection of the dependent claims, along with the addition of added dependent Claim 29 and 30, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims are allowable at least due to their dependence upon an allowable independent claim. Moreover, Applicants respectfully submit that these claims set forth a recitation that further defines the present invention over Tsai patent relied upon by the Office.

In view of the above comments, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the claim rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

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CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in consideration for allowance. Reconsideration of this application, as amended, and allowance of the rejected claims, and passage of the application to issue at an early date are respectfully solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or comments concerning this application, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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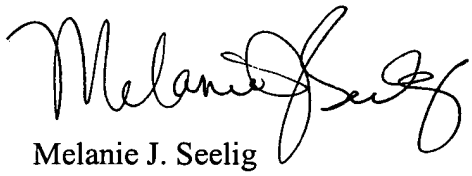

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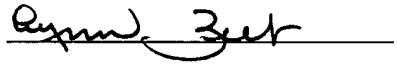
Date: April 6, 2005 

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